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# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### FISHERY UPDATE



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner*  
*Scott Kelley, Director*



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Date: June 30, 2017  
Time: 11:00 a.m.

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#### 2017 POINT GARDNER AND KINGSMILL TEST FISHERIES UPDATE # 1

Point Gardner and Kingsmill test fisheries are ongoing projects that assess pink and chum salmon abundance returning to Section 9-B and District 10. Test fishing at Point Gardner occurs one day per week for 5 weeks starting in statistical week 26 (June 25-July 1). The Kingsmill test fishery occurs one day per week for four weeks starting in statistical week 27 (July 1-July 8). Point Gardner test fishery has proven to be a very good indicator for pink salmon returning to Frederick Sound and lower Stephens Passage, particularly to District 10. The Kingsmill test fishery is used as an indicator for runs returning to Frederick Sound and to eastern lower Chatham Straits (Section 9-B and District 10). Results from the Kingsmill test fishery are generally less conclusive since the test fishery will catch fish heading north to Frederick Sound and south to Rowan and Tebenkof Bays.

This year the *F/V St. Janet* is conducting the Point Gardner and Kingsmill Point test fisheries.

**Point Gardner:** The first test fishery was conducted at Point Gardner on Tuesday, June 27, 2017, by the *F/V St. Janet*. All seven scheduled sets were completed. Pink salmon harvest was well below average and the lowest catch for the first test fishery on record with no pink salmon harvested. Chum salmon catch was also well below average. Sex ratio was not determined for chum salmon for the week. Sockeye salmon are also caught during test fisheries but are incidental and minor in relation to the pink and chum salmon harvest.

**Kingsmill:** No test fishery in statistical week 26.

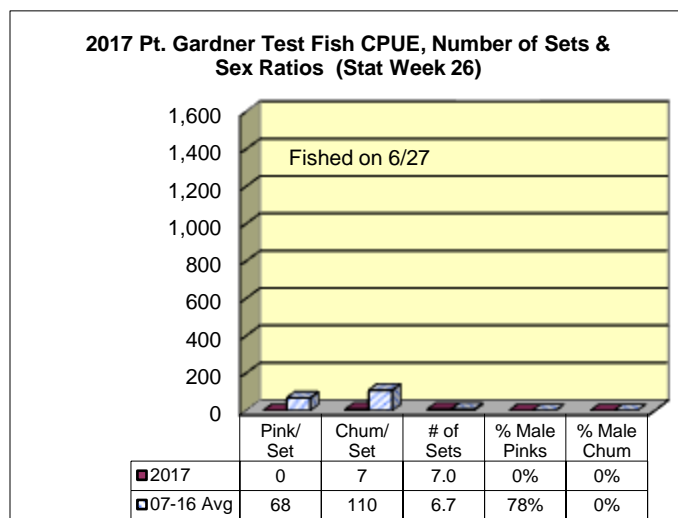
**Run Strength:** Both the pink and chum salmon runs passing through the test fishery at the entrance to Frederick Sound appears to be weak as indicated by below average harvests. However, no real conclusion may be drawn from the data as this is the first test fishing period. Next week's test fisheries will give a better indication of run strength for both pink and chum salmon.

**Sex Ratio Sampling:** Sex ratio sampling is used as a tool in determining run timing. Numbers of males are higher during the first half of the run and females are more numerous during the last half of the run. Comparing this year's percentage of males in the fishery this week to the historical average provides an indication of whether the run is earlier, later, or similar in run timing to previous returns. No sex ratios have been taken at this time.

**Average Weights:**

-Point Gardner: chums: 8.0 pounds.

**Next Test Fisheries:** Point Gardner and Kingsmill test fisheries are scheduled for Wednesday, July 5.



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